

Red Cross Building

■ **Built:** 1918-1919.

■ **What it was:** One of almost 100 Red Cross convalescent houses built on military bases nationwide. The idea was to provide a relaxing, home-like setting for soldiers recovering from injuries, illness and post-traumatic shock during and after World War I. During World War II, it was a Service Club with refreshments and recreational opportunities.

■ **What it is today:** The building was restored by the city and opened in 2004 as E.B. Hamilton Hall. The restoration included federal, state and city money; the project totaled nearly \$2 million. The work included upgrades to sewers, streets, sidewalks and other infrastructure. The International Air & Hospitality Academy calls the spot, and the neighboring mess hall, home for culinary and hotel management classes. It's a popular choice for wedding receptions and other events.

■ **Fun fact:** Volunteer hostesses, known as "gray ladies" kept recuperating soldiers company with games, sing-alongs, snacks and other distractions.

